

Remarks

The preliminary specification amendments provide the Cross-Reference to Related Applications, Statement Regarding Federally Funded Research or Development, and sequence listing designations. There is no new matter in the specification amendments.

Of the 261 claims present at filing, the above preliminary claim amendments amend claims 4-6, 13, 18, 19, 23-24, 172, 172, 191, 192 and 213 and cancels 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 26-33, 35-57, 59-96, 98-124, 126-158, 160-171, 174-179, 181-190, 195-202, 204-212, and 215-261. The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer, and not due to any perception that any of the cancelled or amended claims are unpatentable. Rather, the claim amendments are made to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention chosen to be prosecuted in this application, and to reduce excess claim charges. In that regard, Applicants request that excess claim charges be calculated after entering the amendments.

After these preliminary amendments, pending are claims 1-9, 13, 15, 18-25, 34, 58, 97, 125, 159, 172, 173, 180, 191-194, 203, 213 and 214 (total - 34), including independent claims 1, 34, 58, 97, 125, 159, 180, 203 and 214 (total independent - 9).

Declaration

Enclosed is a properly signed Declaration deemed to be in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.497(a) and (b).

Sequence Requirements

Enclosed herewith is a sequence listing in both paper and computer readable form. The content of the sequence listing information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written (on paper) sequence listing. The sequence listing contains no new matter. Please enter the sequence listing into the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants enclose herewith Form PTO/SB/08B (four pages) and a copy of the 34 references cited therein.

Fees

Enclosed herewith is a check for \$455 reflecting the sum of the following fees (small entity):

14 excess total claims X \$9	= \$126
6 excess independent claims X \$44	= \$264
<u>Late declaration fee (37 C.F.R. 1.492(e)) = \$ 65</u>	
Total	\$455

The PTO is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to prevent abandonment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Conclusion

It is believed that, with this filing, all preliminary matters are resolved. Accordingly, Applicants request examination of the pending claims 1-9, 13, 15, 18-25, 34, 58, 97, 125, 159, 172, 173, 180, 191-194, 203, 213 and 214. If there are any minor matters preventing examination, the PTO is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve those matters.

Respectfully submitted

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